

come a ways, but we haven't yet made it to the point that we have provided the same foundation against discrimination that we provided in 1964 to other groups.

So while Donald Trump himself did not attack the LGBTQ community, the person he chose as Vice President and the person he elevated to Chief Strategist for the White House very much have, and that is a powerful, powerful message that has unleashed attacks across this country.

As our next President, Donald Trump has the responsibility to put an end to the prejudice and to put an end to the hate crimes sweeping our Nation and to calm the fears and anxieties of millions of Americans who are frightened about their future in this country—about whether they will have an opportunity to contribute to this country, whether they will be fired from their job, whether their car will be vandalized, whether their children will be taunted and bullied, whether they will be attacked in a parking lot.

Across the Nation, thousands of people have been turning out to walk the streets and to protest. They are trying to send a message. Sometimes that message has gone off-track.

In Portland, OR, thousands turned out to send this message to our President elect: Put the hate speech and hate acts behind you. Don't bring White supremacists or deeply prejudiced individuals into your administration. Let's have a next 4 years that embraces all Americans and their opportunity to succeed. They are trying to send a message by walking with their feet from park to park, across bridges, through the streets.

Unfortunately, some anarchists decided to destroy the effectiveness of this protest by breaking windows and setting some fires. The organizers of these protests condemn the anarchists and try to keep them out, and most of the protests have succeeded.

I ask for our President-elect, if you won't listen to those of us who are publicly asking you to change course, and if you won't listen to my colleagues who are privately calling you and saying to you and your team to change course, then listen to the people in the streets across America who are trying to peacefully convey the message that we are a diverse nation, with a fabulous vision of embracing people of every religion and every ethnicity and every race. Let's continue that tradition. Let's strengthen that tradition. Let's build on that tradition. That is the message all of us are trying to send.

I join my colleagues to repeat the requests we have made on the floor in Senate, the letter we sent to you, the message sent privately by many of my colleagues sitting across the aisle, the message sent by many of our leaders from civil rights groups and other organizations who have contacted the transition team, the message that has echoed with thousands and thousands

of emails sent to Capitol Hill to ask us to help convey this message.

From every direction, Americans are reaching out and saying: End the hate speech. End the hate commentary. Bring people into your administration who believe in opportunity and justice for all. Change directions.

It is a time for leadership. It is time for our President-Elect Donald Trump to rise to the occasion and to help build a nation that provides the foundation for every American to thrive.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING ALASKA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as many of my colleagues know, I have been proud to associate myself with the work of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. I have been doing this for the many years I have been here in the Senate, and I have been privileged over the years to read the names of Alaska's fallen law enforcement officers. They have a candlelight vigil that occurs at that memorial every May. It is an extraordinarily powerful and moving vigil. From my seat, I am able to look out and see thousands of individuals, and directly in front of the stage they have the wives, husbands, parents, and children of those officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice. As I think of the families, individuals, and those who have served and paid the ultimate sacrifice, it is very difficult to find words that express the depth of my gratitude for their service or the depth of my sorrow.

It is a great honor to be asked and a duty to demonstrate my solidarity with the thin blue line. I go each year hoping that I will not be invited back the next year because that would mean Alaska did not lose a law enforcement officer in the previous year. Unfortunately, I will be invited back to the 2017 ceremony because the year 2016, this year, I am sad to say has been a most difficult one for the law enforcement community in Alaska. This past autumn has been particularly difficult.

Since this body recessed at the end of September, 25 law enforcement officers have lost their lives in the line of duty—15 to gunfire. Firearms-related law enforcement fatalities are up 70 percent according to the Officer Down Memorial Page. This year we have to contend with a particular type of firearms-related fatality, the ambush shooting. This year, 2016, will go down in the annals of law enforcement as the year of the ambush shooting. From

Stanislaus County, CA, to Canonsburg, PA; from New York City to Des Moines, IA; from Peach County, GA, to Palm Springs, CA, it seems no corner of the country is immune from this tragic trend. Unfortunately, Alaska is not immune from it either.

Just this last Saturday, on November 12, Anchorage police officer Arn Salao was dispatched on a call involving an individual who failed to pay a taxi fair, and as he pulled up to the scene, an individual opened fire on his patrol car. Officer Salao exited his car and began to return fire, but he was struck four times before the assailant was brought down by Officer Salao and his backup. It turns out—we have just learned this within the past day—that the perpetrator's gun was linked through ballistics to five homicides in Anchorage during this year of 2016.

Officer Salao has undergone two surgeries and he is expected to survive. On behalf of a grateful Senate, I will take this opportunity to recognize Anchorage Police Officer Arn Salao for his bravery and his heroism, and wish him Godspeed in his recovery.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the men and women of the Anchorage Police Department under the able leadership of Chief Chris Tolley. Chief Tolley is very proud of his team—and justifiably so—from the officers on the scene to the dispatchers who calmly managed the situation, to the investigators who pieced together the story.

Up in Fairbanks, to the north of Anchorage, we had a different outcome with a different ambush shooting. Sergeant Allen Brandt of the Fairbanks Police Department was not so fortunate. On the evening of Saturday, October 15, Sergeant Brandt gathered his four children, brought them together on his bed before he was going out to report for duty. That was ordinary for this sergeant—four young kids under the age of—I believe it is 8—all snuggling with their dad as he prepared to read a story, as he did each and every day. Unfortunately, nothing beyond that was ordinary about that particular evening. Sergeant Brandt had a premonition that he would get shot that evening, and he actually shared that with his family.

Sergeant Brandt was dispatched to a call of shots fired in downtown Fairbanks later that evening. He pulled up on the scene. He was shot six times by an assailant who took his gun and his patrol car, leaving Sergeant Brandt on the street to die. Hearing the gunfire, Brenda Riley rushed out of her home. It was late. It was cold. She was wearing a robe and slippers, and she literally held Sergeant Brandt in her arms while help arrived.

The sergeant was first taken to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, and then he was air-lifted to Alaska Regional Hospital in Anchorage. I had an opportunity to visit with him just hours after the shooting there at the hospital in Anchorage and had an opportunity

to not only hear directly from Sergeant Brandt about the circumstances behind the shooting but to share his thoughts with his wife present as well as his best friend.

Sergeant Brandt was supposed to survive. His most serious injury was shrapnel to the eye. He had been shot multiple times in the legs, took a shot directly to his chest, and, fortunately, the bulletproof vest saved him, but shrapnel came up into his eye. At the time I saw him, he had a patch. He was quite concerned that he would lose his eyesight and, if he lost his eyesight, he was concerned that he wouldn't be able to continue to serve in the Fairbanks Police Department—a concern he said was very troubling.

The sergeant was released from the hospital. He returned home to Fairbanks to thank Mrs. Riley and to thank the Fairbanks community for their support. Eight days after he was released from the hospital, Sergeant Brandt went to the Fairbanks City Council. He went to speak before the council. It was actually the same day that the new mayor was being sworn in, new council members were being sworn in.

Sergeant Brandt wanted to thank the community of Fairbanks. A devout and humble man, Sergeant Brandt told the council that he has seen the hand of the Lord. Yet, he noted, we have many fine officers who have done greater and better things than I have. He said: Our officers do a very hard job and they need your support. Working weekends when their friends are working nights, sleeping during the day, the time that you miss with your family.

In Sergeant Brandt's words, officers do a hard job and most of the time thankless. He said: We need your support and not just when bad things happen.

He asked the council:

Can you imagine telling your kids before you go to work that you think you are going to be shot? That's what our police officers deal with every day. I just want you to know what life is like for a police officer.

Those were the words that Sergeant Brandt shared with the Fairbanks City Council.

Later that week, Sergeant Brandt returned to Anchorage for scheduled eye surgery. He was fighting to save his eyes, again, in hopes of returning to duty. Unfortunately, Sergeant Brandt died from complications of that surgery. His assailant has been charged with murder in the first degree.

Sergeant Brandt's final public utterance—that the law enforcement family needs the support of the community and not just when an officer has been shot—these words must resonate throughout this Nation. As we reflect on a tragic year about to close, it is my sincere hope this will be our national resolve in the year to come.

Like every other law enforcement officer, Sergeant Brandt knew the risks and his family knew the risks. In spite of those risks, his wife Natasha sent

him out to work each and every day because the community needs people with Sergeant Brandt's selflessness, his courage, and his integrity.

So my thoughts today remain with Natasha Brandt and her four kids, who I hope will grow up to appreciate just how much of a hero and a role model their father was.

My thoughts also remain with Brenda Riley, who ran out of the house in her robe and slippers to come to the aid of an officer in distress, and with Phil McBroom of the North Pole Police Department, who is Allen's best friend, who stood watch with him there at the hospital and who maintained vigil and then cared for Allen's children, along with his own four kids, as well as with all of the men and women in law enforcement.

Once again, I join with my Senate colleagues in wishing Officer Salao a speedy recovery.

REMEMBERING EDWARD ITTA

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it is following these sad and difficult comments that I continue my remarks this afternoon to pay tribute to a truly great Alaskan leader who lived a full and strong life.

Today I rise to honor the life of Edward Itta of Utqiagvik, AK, formerly known as Barrow. Mr. Itta passed away on November 6 after a very courageous battle with cancer.

It is hard for me to even share comments about Mr. Itta's life—Edward's life—because he lived a life that was so remarkably full. As I look to the comments that I have prepared, it just doesn't seem appropriate to recognize Edward, using the formality we have here in the Senate, with just words.

Edward Itta was a visionary leader in our State. In many ways, like many Alaska Natives, he lived in two worlds—the traditional world of an Inupiaq whaling captain, as well as the past president of the association and vice chairman of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. I came to know Edward through his life as a whaling captain and how he helped to translate that into this modern world because he was very much a part of the modern world of business, government, and politics.

Edward Itta is probably best known for the two terms he served as mayor of the North Slope Borough, which is where many of us in Washington, DC, our Nation's Capital, came to know of and learn about Edward Itta and his leadership. He, as mayor, created the Healthy Communities Initiative to promote community-based activities. He also created the mayor's Youth Advisory Council, recognizing the need to encourage student leadership for our Next Generations, always focused on, again, a forward vision. He was deeply involved in policy discussions over how to balance oil and gas development in the Arctic with traditional values and the impact of climate change on his communities.

He came to Congress to testify before our committees. He was viewed as the Arctic expert, if you will, one who certainly had a Ph.D. in Arctic living. He spoke at just about every Arctic conference that I have participated in, as one, again, who could speak to his life as a whaling captain, as an Inupiaq, as a leader, as a father and husband but also a very strong businessman who was committed to leading his people into a modern-day world, while at the same time retaining ties to the land, to the waters that feed and sustain them.

Our former colleague Ken Salazar, who went on to serve as Secretary of the Interior, referred to Edward Itta as a giant of Alaska who opened his eyes to the wonders of the Arctic and its people.

There is a great book that is authored by Bob Reiss, entitled "The Eskimo and the Oil Man." It tells the story of how, as Shell was first seeking to explore opportunities in the Beaufort and the Chukchi Seas—some of the resistance that this oil company met as it dealt with the Native people in trying to gain consent and support for their activities in the Arctic and how this Eskimo, this Inupiaq visionary, helped to bring together the world of the traditional subsistence lifestyle and how it could be compatible with oil exploration and development in the Arctic. It is a book that once I had completed, I didn't put away on a bookshelf to not read again. I keep it out because I continue to refer to it.

Edward was appointed in 2012 to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission by President Obama and did wonderful work within the Commission. In the business world, Mr. Itta was active in his regional corporation—the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. He served on numerous subsidiary boards as well as his village corporation, UIC. Also, before taking on the role of mayor, Mr. Itta served in numerous management roles on the North Slope Bureau, including chief administrative officer and public works director. Locally he will be remembered for his leadership in building and maintaining community infrastructure, gravel sources, sewers, roads, airports and the like which were so essential to the survival in the far north.

Edward Itta played in so many worlds and in all of them successfully. Yet he never forgot where he came from or who he was. His family, his friends—so many of us who call him friend—recognize what he provided for so many. We will remember his great sense of humor, his infectious laugh. He loved to tell stories. He would walk around the community gathering—a gathering they call Nalukataq, and Edward would walk me around to every little family in this semicircle on the beach, introducing me to everyone from the elder down to the youngest grandchild and telling stories about all in between.

He was an amazing man. He had a passionate commitment to the values